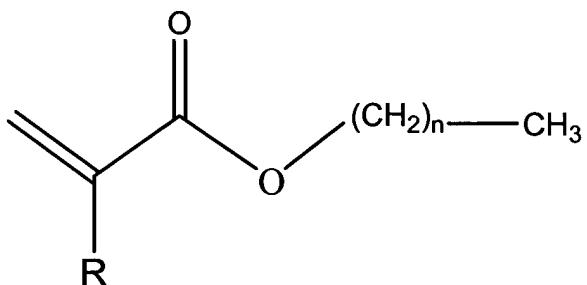


LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-8 canceled.

9. (New) A mounting medium solution for use in the preparation of slides, said medium comprising one or more saturated hydrocarbon solvents selected from the group consisting of C₅-C₂₀ paraffins, C₅-C₂₀ isoparaffins, and mixtures thereof, and at least one acrylate or methacrylate resin derived from one or more monomers having the formula:



wherein,

the saturated hydrocarbon solvent(s) comprise 40% to 90% of the weight of the mounting medium solution;

the resin(s) comprise 10% to 60% of the weight of the mounting medium solution;

R is hydrogen or a methyl group;

n has a value of 0-19; and

-(CH₂)_n- may optionally be substituted with one or more alkyl substituents when n is at least 1, provided, however, the total number of carbon atoms in the -(CH₂)_n-CH₃ moiety is 1 to 20.

10. (New) The mounting medium according to claim 9 wherein the solution comprises a resin derived from isobutyl methacrylate.

11. (New) The mounting medium according to claim 9, wherein the one or more saturated hydrocarbon solvents are selected from the group comprising of C₅-C₂₀ paraffins and C₅-C₂₀ isoparaffins.

12. (New) The mounting medium solution of claim 9 wherein the one or more saturated hydrocarbon solvents are selected from the group comprising nonanes, decanes, undecanes, and dodecane.

13. (New) The mounting medium solution of claim 9, wherein the acrylate resin is derived from one or more monomers selected from the group consisting of methyl acrylate, ethyl acrylate, isopropyl acrylate, isobutyl acrylate, isohexyl acrylate, and isodecyl acrylate.

14. (New) The mounting medium solution of claim 9, wherein the methacrylate resin is derived from one or more monomers selected from the group consisting of methyl methacrylate, ethyl methacrylate, isopropyl methacrylate, isobutyl methacrylate, isohexyl methacrylate, and isodecyl methacrylate.

15. (New) The mounting medium solution of claim 9, further comprising one or more C₁₋₆ alcohols.

16. (New) The mounting medium solution according to claim 9, wherein the group -(CH₂)_n-CH₃ comprises a linear backbone of between 1 and 10 carbon atoms.

17. (New) The mounting medium solution of claim 16, wherein the linear backbone is substituted at one or more position(s) with saturated hydrocarbon substituents such that the total amount of carbon atoms in the group -(CH₂)_n-CH₃ is between 1 and 20.

18. (New) The mounting medium solution of claim 9, wherein the mounting medium solution has a viscosity of between 2 and 6 Stokes at 25°C, as measured in a Gardner Bubble viscosimeter.

19. (New) A mounting medium solution for use in the preparation of slides, said medium comprising one or more saturated hydrocarbon solvents selected from the group consisting of C₅-C₂₀ paraffins, C₅-C₂₀ isoparaffins, and mixtures thereof, and at least one acrylate or methacrylate resin selected from the group consisting of benzyl acrylate and benzyl methacrylate, wherein the saturated hydrocarbon solvent(s) comprise 40% to 90% of the weight of the mounting medium solution and the resin(s) comprise 10% to 60% of the weight of the mounting medium solution.